

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 13, 2018

The Honorable Hugh J. Hurwitz  
Acting Director  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20534

Dear Acting Director Hurwitz:

We write today to seek additional information on the Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) decision to relocate its Special Management Unit (SMU) from United States Penitentiary (USP) Lewisburg in Union County, Pennsylvania, to the Administrative United States Penitentiary (AUSP) Thomson, located in Illinois. We also urge you to do everything possible to preserve staff jobs at USP Lewisburg or offer suitable alternatives for employment.

BOP's SMU program is intended to address inmates who present unique security and management concerns. This may include inmates who have participated in or led gang-related activity or those who have a history of serious or disruptive disciplinary actions. The SMU program is designed to provide a more restrictive environment for a temporary period of time before transitioning inmates back to the general population. Currently, USP Lewisburg is the only BOP facility with an SMU program.

You recently notified us that the SMU capabilities would be relocated from Lewisburg to AUSP Thomson, a facility in Illinois. We request that you provide additional details on the decision-making process that has led you to pursue this change, as well as an estimated timeline for completing this transition. In addition, we request an estimate of the effect this relocation will have on staffing levels at USP Lewisburg. As we noted in a March 2018 letter to your predecessor, Mark Inch, understaffing at BOP facilities in Pennsylvania continues to be a serious problem that creates safety risks not only for correctional officers and other prison staff, but also for inmates and the public at large. As you recalibrate staffing levels at USP Lewisburg, we urge you to implement an inmate-to-staff ratio that will help ensure that our correctional officers and prison staff can be secure on the job and return home safely. Finally, where staffing cuts are unavoidable, we ask that the BOP prioritize assisting the men and women whose positions will be phased out. We request that the BOP assist them in finding suitable alternative employment, including within BOP or the federal government, as well as ensuring a smooth transition to their new roles.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We will continue to monitor the relocation process and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Pat Toomey  
United States Senator



Tom Marino  
Member of Congress